

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8 and 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Allen. Claims 9-10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Allen. These rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

With respect to Claim 1, the features of claim 9 have been incorporated in claim 1. In the Examiner's analysis of claim 1, it is not clear which component of Allen corresponds to the claimed "main component." As the Examiner references elements 13 or 80/81 as wireless transmitters, then it is assumed that element 50 corresponds to the claimed main component as this device is connected to wireless transmitter 13. The main component 50 of Allen, however, fails to include the wired speaker outputs recited in claim 1. Claim 1 recites "the main component of the hard-wired audio system includes left front and rear wired speaker outputs, right front and rear wired speaker outputs, a center wired speaker output and a subwoofer wired speaker output." In reviewing claim 9, the Examiners suggests that a wired subwoofer speaker output would be an obvious addition to Allen.

Allen only shows left and right channels exiting the main component 50. The division into front left, front right, rear left and rear right is performed in the transmitter 13. Thus, it is not clear why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the main component of Allen to include the wired speaker outputs recited in claim 1. The system of Allen already generates the surround sound signals in the wireless transmitter 13 based on left and right channels from the main component 50. To add wired surround sound speaker outputs to the main component 50 of Allen would defeat the purpose of the surround sound processor 54. Such a modification would alter the principle of operation of Allen. In Allen, a main component having left and right channels is converted to surround sound. By adding wired surround sound speaker outputs to Allen, there is no need for this conversion. As this modification alters the principle of operation of Allen, this proposed modification is

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improper under the standards set forth in MPEP § 2143.01. The MPEP states if the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Allen.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Allen. Claims 2-8 and 10 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Allen for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

Claim 16 has been placed in independent form and recites that the main component includes left front and rear wired speaker outputs and right front and rear wired speaker outputs. As element 13 in Allen is the wireless transmitter, then the claimed main component must correspond to element 50 in Allen. Element 50 in Allen only shows left and right channels and thus fails to anticipate claim 16.

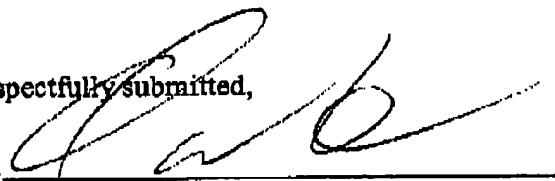
For the above reasons, claim 16 is patentable over Allen. Claims 17-19 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Allen for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


David A. Fox
Registration No. 38,807
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 36192

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